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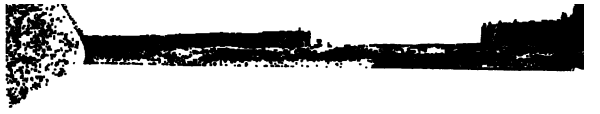

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DAILY DEVOTIONS

FOR THE CLOSET:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

PRAYERS

ON PARTICULAR OCCASIONS.

FIRST AMERICAN, FROM THE *THIRD* LONDON EDITION,

WITH VARIOUS ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

BY THE LATE REVEREND

SAMUEL MERRIVALE.

PUBLISHED AT WORCESTER,
BY ISAIAH THOMAS, JUN.

1808.

GOULDING & STOW, PRINTERS.

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PREFACE

TO THE

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION.

THIS little volume is eminently calculated for our companion in performing those duties of secret prayer and meditation, which the Saviour of the world enjoined upon all his disciples. The ardent spirit of piety and gratitude contained in each prayer, discover the author to have been deeply impressed with a consciousness of GOD'S overruling Providence, guardian protection, and parental benevolence. The goodness, the justice and mercy of the Deity are acknowledged with humble reverence; and the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is praised in strains of feeling gratitude.

Secret scrutiny into our own hearts, and private meditations are the only means of obtaining that SELF KNOWLEDGE, which ever precede greater attainments in the Christian life. No one can make these "*Devotions*" a part of his daily religious exercises, without feeling his imperfections, and endeavoring to reform the whole course of his behavior. They contain no "*vain repetitions*," no inflated expressions of self abasement, but are the pious emanations of a mind sincerely desirous of worshipping GOD in spirit and in truth. It is to be wished that books of this description and merit were more generally multiplied and circulated in our country for the advancement of correct morals and pure religion.

Worcester, October, 1808.

PREFACE

TO THE

THIRD LONDON EDITION.

THE late worthy Author of the following PRAYERS *had prepared them for the press just before his death; and it was his desire that they should be published. Had they met with a general approbation, he intended, if Providence had spared his life, to have added another complete set for every day in the week.*

The third and fourth Prayers in this Collection, were drawn up by another hand, for the use of a person who no longer needs these imperfect helps to aid her religious services, but, together with the pious Author of this Publication, is removed to that better world, where the exalted worship of the celestial inhabitants

doth assist and animate her devotions. These two Prayers were communicated at the request of the deceased; and if he lived to have sent this Work to the press, he intended to have inserted them.

A few expressions in the Occasional Prayers *are borrowed from Dr. Doddridge, Dr. Watts, &c. &c. but it was thought better to retain them, than substitute others less proper in their stead.*

As two large impressions have been sold off, a Third Edition is now offered to the Public, with some few alterations.

JOHN HOGG.

London, 1796.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

FOR THE CLOSET.

I—*A Morning Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

O GREAT and blessed God, the Maker and Lord of heaven and earth! Thou art possessed of all power, wisdom, and goodness; all riches, majesty, and dominion are thine; and thou art worthy to be revered and honored, loved and obeyed, by all on earth, and all in heaven. I adore thee as the Fountain of all being, of all happiness and perfection; and particularly as the God of my life, the Author of all my past and present mercies, and the Foundation of all my future hopes.

My times, O Lord, are in thy hand. On thee do I constantly depend for the continuance of that life which I at first

received from thee, and which I am under the strongest obligations to devote entirely to thy service. But more especially am I bound to honor thee with that portion of my time which thou hast in a peculiar manner consecrated to thyself. I thank thee for the institution of the Sabbath as a day of sacred rest; set apart from worldly cares and labors to thy more immediate worship and service; and would esteem it a delight, holy of the Lord, and honorable.

Many seasons of mercy and means of grace have I foolishly wasted, or sinfully abused. Yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast now brought me to see the light of another of the days of the Son of Man. O let not the Sabbath be added to the number of my lost Sabbaths; but help me to spend it in thy fear, to employ it in holy acts and devout exercises, and to improve it to my spiritual edification, and to my increase in divine knowledge, grace, and comfort.

This is the day in which the great Redeemer of the world, after having made his soul an offering for sin, broke the bonds of death, and rose triumphant from the grave. O that I, being quickened together with him, and raised from the death of sin to a life of righteousness, may be engaged to seek those things which are above, where he now sits at thy right hand! Help me to chace away carnal and worldly affections from my heart, and to raise my thoughts and views to spiritual and heavenly objects. And may all my sentiments, words, and actions, from the beginning to the end of this thy day, be holy and unreprovable in thy sight.

Give me, O Lord, such worthy apprehensions of thine adorable nature and attributes, such admiring views of thy creating power and wisdom, of thy providential care, and of thy redeeming love and grace, as shall excite in my soul all suitable affections towards thee; the

deepest veneration, the purest love, the liveliest hope, and sublimest joy. Form my soul to a resemblance of thyself; and grant that, by the influence of thy good spirit, I may be renewed in the spirit of my mind, and enabled to put on that New Man who, after God, is created in righteousness and true holiness. May the great work of religion, in all its branches, be considered by me as the most honorable, the most important, and the most delightful employment in which I can be engaged: And in this business let me never be slothful or negligent, but always prepared to serve thee with cheerfulness, fidelity, and zeal.

I would this morning, with all possible seriousness and solemnity, renew the dedication of myself to thee, my God. Thine I am, by the strongest ties of duty, interest, and gratitude; and thine I would for ever be. Take thou the full possession of my heart, which

thou hast formed for thyself: And help me to make an unfeigned surrender of all that I am, and all that I have, to thee, the great Proprietor of all. With purpose of heart would I cleave unto thee. O keep me close to thyself; and let nothing be able to separate me from thy love.

Help me, O Lord, to live under a constant sense of thy presence, and to maintain an habitual communion with thee my Heavenly Father, and with thy Son, Jesus Christ. May I find it good for me to draw near unto thee, from time to time, in the exercises of private and public devotion; and be in the happy number of those whom thou chusest, and causest to approach unto thee with acceptance; whom thou satisfiest with the goodness of thy house, and cheerest with the hope of worshipping and serving thee more perfectly in thy heavenly temple.

In an humble imitation of thy diffusive goodness, O thou most benevolent of Beings, I would desire to cherish in my heart a sincere good will and fervent charity to all my fellow creatures, who are thy offspring. Nor let me think it enough merely to wish them well, and to abstain from injuring them, but make me ever ready to do them all the good in my power. And especially let me never be wanting in the discharge of those duties which belong to my particular station and relations.

Give me also wisdom clearly to discern, and effectually to pursue my own truest welfare and happiness. Teach me to prefer the interest of my soul to that of my body; to keep all my appetites and passions under a due regulation; to cultivate the graces of humility and meekness, moderation and contentment, to possess my soul in patience, amidst all the trials and troubles of this present state; and to be above

all things, solicitous to ensure my future and eternal bliss.

For these most important purposes, bless, O merciful God, all the means of grace that I enjoy ; and particularly the opportunities I may have this day of assembling with my fellow christians to attend the ordinances of public worship and religious instruction. Assist thy ministering servants in their addresses to thee, and in their endeavors to improve and edify their hearers ; and let their services in thy sanctuary be attended with much success.

And now unto Him who was dead, but is alive, and lives for evermore, who has redeemed us to God by his blood, and is exalted to be our Prince and Saviour....to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever....AMEN.

II—*An Evening Prayer for the Lord's Day.*

O MOST blessed and glorious God! Thy name is excellent in all the earth; and thou hast set thy glory above the heavens. Thou art great, and greatly to be praised; thou art good, and greatly to be loved; and worthy to receive the united adoration and homage of all thy reasonable creatures. Thou needest not, indeed, our services, nor canst receive the least advantage from our praises: But never can we be more honorably or advantageously employed, than in celebrating thy perfections, admiring thy works, gratefully recollecting the past instances of thy goodness, and imploring the continuance of thy kind and favorable regards.

Blessed be thy name for the renewed opportunities I have this day had of waiting upon thee in thy house, of joining in the public services of thy sanctu-

ary, of hearing thy word explained and enforced, and of being from thence instructed and encouraged in those ways of righteousness which lead to life eternal. Help me, good Lord, to make a proper improvement of those religious advantages and means of grace which thou affordest me; let me not abuse them by resting in them, but be solicitous that the ends for which they are designed may be answered in me. Enable me to live in a manner suitable to the profession I make, to the privileges I enjoy, and to the obligations and engagements I am under to thee. O that thy laws may be more deeply engraven on my heart! O that the truths I have this day heard may be so faithfully kept in mind as to be of lasting use, for the better information of my judgment, and the regulation of my temper and conduct.

Pardon those imperfections, most merciful Father, which have attended

my religious duties this day, in thy house or in my own. Forgive the deadness and dulness of my affections, the wandering of my thoughts, and the distractions of my mind. I am grieved and ashamed to think how little my heart has been engaged in the work of prayer and praise. With what indifference have I heard the messages of thy grace, and attended to the notices of thy will: And how unaffected have I been with a sense of the evil of sin, the worth of my soul, the weight of eternity, and the greatness of that future glory and felicity which will be the certain portion of all that truly love and serve thee!

O that I may have the wisdom to spend my future Sabbaths better, and learn to be at all times more serious and considerate, more spiritually and heavenly minded, than I have hitherto! Let my thoughts be more frequently and delightfully employed in meditating on the glorious perfections of thy nature, as dis-

played in thy works, and in thy word. Purify my affections, that I may love thee above all, and delight in thee and in thy laws; and may renounce and detest whatever is evil in itself and displeasing to thee. And grant that I may every day feel more and more of that peace and satisfaction which is the genuine effect of a growing acquaintance with thee; and a close adherence to thee, in all the ways of holy obedience.

Whilst I am here in this world, help me by faith to live above it. Suffer me not to mind and pursue earthly things, as if I had chosen the world for my portion, and had no better inheritance in view: But, knowing that I have here no continuing city, may I seek one to come; even that city which has foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God. Considering myself as only a stranger and pilgrim on earth, let me live like a citizen of heaven, and have my conversation there. Enable me, O Lord, by

thy mighty power, to overcome all the difficulties and oppositions, trials and temptations, which I may meet with in my journey heaven wards. And by making daily advances and improvements in holiness and goodness, may I be gradually growing more and more fit for a share in that glorious inheritance which is among thy saints in light.

Blessed be thy name, O God of grace, that thou didst take compassion on a world that lay in wickedness, and was exposed to misery and ruin; and didst contrive the grand scheme of our redemption and salvation: That when the fulness of time was come, thou didst send forth thine own Son into the world, to execute the purposes of thy goodness; to teach us the most important and salutary doctrines; to instruct us in the knowledge of thy nature and will; of the duties thou requirest of us, and of the blessings thou hast intended for us; to set before us the most amiable

and animating example of universal goodness, in his own character and conduct; and at length to suffer and to die, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. Blessed be thy name, that thou hast, with thy right hand, exalted this our suffering and dying Redeemer, to be our Prince and Saviour; and that having been made perfect through sufferings, he is become the Author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him.

Blessed be thy name that the tidings of this salvation have reached my ears; that the kind offers of grace, peace, and eternal life, are held forth to me in the gospel of thy Son; that thou art waiting to be gracious unto me, and earnestly inviting and importuning me to be reconciled unto thee. O that I may cheerfully comply with thy merciful invitations; that I may thankfully accept thine offered blessings on thy own terms, and be taught most highly to value, and

wisely to improve all those inestimable privileges and advantages of a spiritual nature, with which thou hast favored me.

For the many temporal mercies thou art bestowing upon me from day to day, and particularly for the preservation and supplies of the day past, I would likewise offer Thee my unfeigned tribute of gratitude and praise. O let a sense of thine unmerited goodness abide continually on my heart; and help me not only to speak, but to live to thy praise.

And now be pleased to take me, O Lord, into thy care and protection this night. Defend me from all evils and dangers, and refresh me with sweet and comfortable repose. Let me lie down with holy thoughts of thee; and when I awake, let me be still with Thee.

I would commend to thy kind and gracious regards, all my relatives and friends. Do them good, and bless them with all such spiritual and temporal blessings as thou knowest to be most proper and needful for them. Visit, in

mercy, such as are under affliction. Give them patience and submission to thy will: Relieve their distresses, and afford them all the necessary supports, and those divine consolations, which are neither few nor small.

Extend, O thou God and Father of all, thy loving kindness and compassion to the whole human race. Send the light of thy glorious gospel through every part of the habitable world; and wheresoever it shines, may it be the means of spreading not only knowledge and truth, but righteousness and peace amongst them. Continue thy merciful regard to this land of my nativity. Inspire our rulers with wisdom and integrity; guide all our public councils and affairs for the best; watch over our liberties; pardon our national sins; and work a thorough reformation amongst us. Be gracious to all who minister in holy things; and succeed their endeavors for promoting the cause of true religion, by their useful instructions and exemplary lives.

Hear me, good Lord, in these my imperfect petitions; and mercifully accept of this my evening sacrifice of prayer and praise. Keep me in thy fear and in thy favor, through the remainder of my short and uncertain life; support and comfort me in my dying moments; and after death be thou my portion and exceeding great reward, through Jesus Christ, the Son of thy Love; in whom I desire to be found living and dying, and by whom I would ascribe to Thee, O Heavenly Father, all honor, glory, and dominion, now and ever....AMEN.

III.—*A Prayer for the Lord's Day Morning.*

O ETERNAL and Almighty God, heaven is thy throne, and this earth is but thy footstool! I adore thine infinite condescension for making that to be my duty which I ought ever to es-

teem my greatest privilege....the permission and opportunity of praising Thee, and celebrating thy perfections. The return of this sacred morning excites in my mind a fresh and grateful remembrance of thy kind regard to my soul, as well as to my body. With the sincerest gratitude I thank thee, O thou beneficent Parent of all, for every instance of thy goodness towards me. All I have, I derived at first from thy bounty. All I enjoy, flows from the same divine munificence. It is owing to thy care that I have been kept in safety through the darkness and silence of the past night. And it is an instance of thy Fatherly compassion that not only security, but comfortable rest and refreshing sleep have been my portion. How great is thy kindness to the children of men! How amazing thy goodness! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and let all that is within me bless his holy name. May I never forget thy mercies, which are renewed every morning. I thus thank

and adore thee as the Former and Preserver of my mortal body. But I would in the most exalted strains of devotion praise Thee, as the Father of spirits, and the Author of all my intellectual powers and faculties. Accept my most profound and thankful acknowledgments for the light of reason, and the injunctions of conscience, whereby I am in some measure informed of thy glorious perfections, and of the services which thou hast enjoined, to make me happy both here and hereafter. But especially, and above all, I desire to praise thee with the warmest gratitude for the unspeakable gift of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, for the clear manner in which my duty is made known in his gospel, and for the many divine and powerful motives by which the practice of it is enforced. At the same time I praise and bless Thee for the institution of religious ordinances, and for the setting apart one day in seven, that I may withdraw my thoughts from the business,

the cares, and the amusements of life. May this sacred time be always employed by me to the best of purposes. May I devoutly converse with thee my Almighty Creator and Supreme Governor, in the offices of prayer and devotion. Teach me to know thy will, to become acquainted with the rules and measures of my duty, and thus make me wise unto eternal salvation. Instruct me how to meditate on thy perfections with unfeigned devotion, and sincere fervor of affection. By this means may I contract a veneration and love for thy matchless attributes, until the strongest and purest desires are excited in my soul, and I am urged on to acquire as near a resemblance to Thee in thy most glorious perfections, as a frail creature can attain.

Lord God, I lament with the deepest contrition of soul, the little progress I have made in acquiring this divine temper. How negligent have I been in thy service! How cold and languid my de-

votions! How often, in my immediate addresses to Thee, the heart searching God, have my thoughts wandered, and my devotions been carelessly performed! My affections have been withdrawn from Thee, the centre of every thing amiable, glorious, and supremely excellent, and have been fixed on the mean, ignoble objects of time and sense. I confess this with shame and the sincerest sorrow of heart, and would humble myself before Thee for such languor and carelessness. At the same time I acknowledge I have been guilty of many iniquities. I have sinned against clear light, and the best instructions and resolutions. I have offended in thought, in word, and in deed. I have transgressed thy laws, which are the laws of reason, and the only sure means of conducting me to happiness. Gracious and compassionate God, blushing and confusion of face must cover me; remorse and contrition must fill my breast, on account of my rebellion, my ingratitude,

and my aggravated and heinous transgressions. All I can plead before Thee is mercy. In that, all my hopes and expectations centre. Adored be thy forgiving love in Jesus Christ thy Son, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and through whom sinful, penitent mortals may approach Thee and find acceptance. I come in his name, in thine own appointed way, resolving to comply with the terms of the gospel covenants. Give me light sufficient to instruct me, and strength sufficient to enable me to put my good resolutions into practice. O thou Father of all mercy, thou God of all grace, forgive all my sins, and grant me all that assistance which shall be requisite for me in every situation.

May I be watchful over myself, and guard against a careless or a sensual temper. May I be mortified to the world and its enjoyments, and possess true christian moderation. May the devotions I shall engage in, and the instructions I shall receive this day, prove ef-

fectual to this good purpose. May my mind be enlightened by hearing divine truths; and my soul elevated by prayer and praise. May the motives of the gospel be so strongly impressed upon my heart, as to enable me effectually to oppose every temptation, and to triumph over all my spiritual enemies. May I wean myself more and more from time and sense, and show that I am a child of God, and born from above, by having my conversation in Heaven, even while I live in the present world. Suffer no trial to await me in which my good dispositions shall be either overcome or weakened: But when virtue shall be at any time ready to give way before more powerful temptation, do thou who hast access to the human heart, pour such light and strength into my soul, as shall excite proper considerations within me, and shall restore me to my true self; to the influence and direction of conscience and religion. May the governing principles of my life be faith in Christ, and

unfeigned, unreserved obedience and submission to Thee, my Heavenly Father. Enable me to be continually making a progress in holiness, and to aim at the highest attainments.

With respect to my worldly situation, I know not what is best. All I ask is to be placed in such a state as shall most effectually tend to improve me in divine knowledge and christian virtue. To this end may I ever regard the present life in its true light, as designed to train me up for another and a better world; towards which, the nearer I advance, the more prepared may I become. However things are ordered as to my worldly condition, make me wholly resigned to thy all disposing will, and fully convinced of the wisdom, propriety, and kindness of all thy dealings. Lift up the light of thy reconciled countenance upon me, in my passage through this transitory state. Fill me with all that joy of heart which ariseth from the testimony of a good conscience, and the en-

livening expectation of the heavenly happiness. Fit me for every situation in life, and, above all, prepare me for death. When that last scene shall approach, enable me to place a firm trust in thy mercy as displayed in the gospel. May my dismission hence be full of christian hope and joyful confidence, and after death be thou the Eternal Consolation of my soul.

O thou universal Parent of nature, favor the whole world with the same spiritual privileges which I enjoy. May the kingdom of the Redeemer soon come. May his name be glorified, and his religion spread throughout the earth. Bless in a particular manner the nation to which I belong. May each one contribute his part to help forward a general reformation.

May all my friends and relations be blessed by Thee, and be the friends of God, and the promoters of virtue and true religion. O God, reward all my benefactors, and forgive all my enemies.

Condescend to be favorably present in all worshipping assemblies this day. Make good thine ancient promise, that wheresoever two or three are met together in thy name, there thou wilt be with them, and bless them. May a divine energy and blessing accompany me, and all with whom I shall this day join in ordinances of a religious nature. May these imperfect services here *below*, fit me in the best manner for bearing a part in the exalted praises of angels *above*, and for eternally residing in thy blissful presence, who art the everlasting Light of all thy saints. These devout thanksgivings and humble petitions I sincerely offer unto Thee, the Source of all perfection, and the Fountain of all good, in the name and as the disciple of thy Son, Jesus Christ; to whom be glory in the churches, world without end....AMEN.

IV—*A Prayer for the Lord's Day Evening.*

MOST merciful and ever blessed God, thou art the Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth. From Thee I receive all my present enjoyments; and in Thee every hope of happiness in another and better world doth entirely centre.

I adore Thee as the first cause, and the last end of all things: As that Almighty, ever living, and Supreme God, before whom angels and archangels bow down, and prostrate themselves with the profoundest veneration. Thousands of glorified spirits surround thy throne, ten thousand times ten thousand minister in thy presence, and think it their greatest felicity to contemplate thy attributes, and to enjoy the smiles of thy favor.

Blessed, thrice happy are these thy servants who thus dwell in thy heavenly temple, who see thy face without a veil,

and keep an everlasting Sabbath in celebrating thy perfections, and praising Thee in the most exalted strains of gratitude and love.

Blessed also, in a lower degree, are thy servants who approach Thee in thine earthly courts, to see the milder displays of thy glory, and taste thy mercy and grace.

Thanks to thy great and glorious name for the frequent opportunities which I have had of enjoying this sacred privilege. Particularly I bless Thee for that opportunity which hath been afforded me this day. May I have reason to say that it hath been good for me to draw nigh unto God in his house of prayer. May I feel the happy effects of it in those pious and devout sentiments which it shall lead me to cherish, in those holy resolutions which it shall engage me to form, and in those virtuous and upright actions which it shall enable me continually to practise.

I thank Thee for those ordinances of religion, which thou hast been pleased to institute; for the directions which thy holy word contains; and for the instructions which it affords; which are in the best manner calculated to make me wise unto eternal salvation.

When I reflect on all these advantages, and consider my own base ingratitude, and the little improvement I have made of all these favors, my soul is filled with grief and sorrow. I stand in continual need of mercy to overlook my numerous failings, and to pardon my repeated offences. I have sometimes sinned through ignorance: I have more frequently transgressed through carelessness and inattention. If at any time I have offended through presumption, most gracious God, I entreat Thee, for thy mercy's sake in Jesus Christ, to overlook and pardon these, and all my other iniquities.

Lead me to have a just sense fixed in my mind of the odious nature and destructive tendency of all sin. Convince me in the most powerful and effectual manner, that nothing can tend to secure my true happiness either *here* or *hereafter*, but the sincere practice of holiness and virtue.

As thou hast instituted the ordinances of religion to be the means of impressing this truth on my soul, grant, O Heavenly Father, that I may make them subservient to this good purpose.

If a just sense of the odious nature of sin hath been excited in my mind by any of the exercises of devotion in which I have this day engaged, enable me to cherish and strengthen this principle more and more. May I hate sin with a more perfect hatred than I have hitherto done, and love and pursue holiness and religion with greater fervency and affection of soul.

I acknowledge, O thou most compassionate of all beings, that I have not

made so good a use of my faculties for obeying and serving thee, as I might and ought to have made. My attention hath been too often fixed on the trifling vanities and amusements of this world, to the neglect of those awful and important concerns which relate to my heavenly and eternal state. I confess that, often when I have been present in thine house, and joining as to the outward part, in worshipping Thee, the Supreme Ruler of the universe, my heart and affections have been wandering after earthly pursuits, and I have paid that regard to the creature which is alone due to Thee, the Almighty Creator and Sovereign Lord of all.

Adored be thy goodness and mercy that thou art ever disposed to pardon penitent returning sinners; and for this end hast appointed an Advocate in heaven, Jesus Christ the righteous, who is become a Propitiation for all the errors and imperfections which are repented of and forsaken.

For thy mercy's sake in him, I most humbly entreat Thee to pardon all the sins I have been guilty of in my past life, to forgive all the negligence and inattention I have shewn in thy worship, and to accept those of my services, however imperfect, which have been attended with sincerity and uprightness of heart.

May I ever value it as my greatest privilege that I can so often join in solemn addresses to Thee, and gratefully acknowledge thy goodness and mercy, in concert with those who are blessed and supplied by the same bounty and munificence. May such impressions be by this means made on my mind as shall engage me to cherish the most grateful, pure, and benevolent affections. By often meditating on thy divine glories, may I be induced to love Thee with my whole heart, to serve Thee with the greatest sincerity of soul, and to acquire some resemblance to Thee the in-

finite Source of all perfection and happiness. May I never become carnal and sensual by my converse with earthly things; but may I, by frequent acts of piety and devotion, raise my affections to unseen things, and live a heavenly life even while I am on earth. May I guard myself from the snares, and escape the corruptions which are in the world through lust; and by this means become in some measure partaker of a divine nature. May I ever consider this life as a pilgrimage, as vain, troublesome, and uncertain. May I always look upon heaven as my settled abode and lasting home, and regard my true life as hid with Christ in God; that when Christ who is my life shall appear, I also may appear with him in glory. Enable me ever to possess a true government over all my inferior appetites and passions. Suffer me never to give way to vicious pursuits, or sensual indulgences. May a due sense of Thine awful presence and inspection ever ac-

company me. In the most secret retirement, as well as in public, may I consider myself as under thine eye, and accountable to Thee for all my thoughts, words, and actions. Under the influence of this persuasion may I maintain purity in my heart, sincerity and truth in all my words, and holiness in all my conduct. May I ever do to others as I would they should do unto me: Thus may I fulfil all righteousness.

From beholding thy goodness and mercy so conspicuously and gloriously displayed in the works of creation, and especially in the work of redemption, may I be induced to cherish a benevolent and a merciful temper. May I do good to all as I have opportunity. May I ever cherish that meekness and humility which shone so illustrious in my divine Saviour, and be always more ready to forgive than to revenge any injury or affront. Keep far from me all pride and haughtiness, all anger and malice. Enable me ever to act the worthy, generous,

christian part, in relieving the necessitous as far as my abilities extend, and in aiding my fellow creatures by my advice, my influence, and my earnest endeavors; that the blessing of the poor and afflicted may come upon me, and that I may in some measure resemble Thee, the God of all mercy and the universal Parent of all good.

Fit me for all the various changes which in the course of thy providence I may be called to pass through in this frail uncertain state. Make me ever contented with the whole of my situation, knowing that all thine appointments are wise and good. Dispose me ever to be thankful for the mercies I enjoy, even in the most afflictive circumstances, and to eye a divine and Fatherly hand in all thy dealings. By this means prepare me for every occurrence in life, that whether prosperity or adversity be my lot, I may possess those graces and acquire those virtues which shall adorn each situation, and which shall enable me to discharge

the duty required of me. I know my own insufficiency for these things; I am conscious of my own weakness and frailty. I have in time past been frequently overcome by temptations, even contrary to my own good resolutions. Do thou therefore, the Father of Spirits, grant me the assistances of Thine own Divine Spirit, that I may be enabled by thy strength to perform all these things in a right and acceptable manner. Make all my public religious exercises, and all my private devotions and secret meditations, greatly beneficial to this good purpose. Especially may this present humble address to the throne of thy grace, and the pious acknowledgments I have this day joined in offering Thee, be serviceable to this end.

When I return to my worldly concerns and stated employment in the ensuing week, may it appear by the whole of my behavior in them, and by the whole of my behavior in future life, that I have really this day been conversing

with God. May this day's retirement from the cares of the world be reflected on with pleasure through the whole of my continuance here. May it even prove a never failing source of joy and delight when days and weeks shall be at an end, and the uninterrupted enjoyment of Thee, the everlasting Source of perfection and happiness, shall be the reward of my labors.

O thou sovereign Lord of the universe, hear the prayers which have this day been presented unto Thee for those parts of the world which lie buried in darkness and ignorance. Give thy Son the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost part of the earth for his possession. Be favorably mindful of my native land, and of all that are connected with it. May we improve the mercies we enjoy, and be long continued to be that happy people, whose protection and defence is ever nigh at hand, the living Lord of heaven and earth. May those who are connected with me in the bonds

of nature and friendship, be related to Thee in the bonds of an everlasting covenant, well ordered in all things and sure. May those from whom I have received favors be abundantly blessed and rewarded by Thee. May all those who wish me ill, if any such there be, obtain the same forgiveness from God which I hope and expect to obtain. Bless the family to which I stand related. May every member of it be a living member of Jesus Christ.

May the return of every such sacred opportunity as I have this day enjoyed, be embraced by me with the greatest readiness, and improved to the most valuable of all purposes, the helping forward my preparation for heaven and eternal happiness. May I make all the events which befal me in life conducive to the same important end, that my meetness for future glory may be continually increasing the longer I remain here below.

With such holy thoughts and devout dispositions I would lay myself

down to receive the refreshment of sleep during the ensuing night, committing myself, and all for whom I am concerned, to Thine Almighty protection and care. O thou Guardian of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, keep far from this dwelling, and from all who reside in it, all dangers and terrors during the silent and defenceless hours of rest, and cause us all to awake in the morning in health and strength, refreshed with the comfortable repose of this night, and qualified to engage in those duties which may lie before each of us on the ensuing day.

This, my evening sacrifice of prayer and praise, I offer up unto Thee the Supreme Lord of heaven and earth, in the name of thy well beloved Son Jesus Christ, through whom I would ascribe unto Thee, as is most justly due, the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever....AMEN.

V.—*A Prayer for Monday Morning.*

O MOST great, most gracious, and most glorious God! The Almighty Maker and all wise Governor of the Universe! The Father, the Friend, and Saviour of mankind! All possible excellence is centered in Thee; all real and substantial good streams forth from thee: And under a lively sense of thine adorable perfections, thine inexhaustible fulness, and unlimited bounty, would I this morning come before thee, to offer thee my tributes of praise and thanksgiving, and to present my prayers and supplications at the throne of thy grace.

Adored be that Power and Goodness, which at first produced me into being, and whereby I have been constantly supported and liberally supplied with all things needful to my comfortable subsistence in this present state. I thank thee particularly for the safety and repose of the last night; that I then laid me

down and slept, and have awoke this morning in health and peace, because thou hast sustained me. Thus far, O thou Preserver of men, hast thou been pleased to spare my forfeited life; and numberless as my sins and provocations against thee have been, thou art still following me with thy mercies and favors. O let me not despise the riches of thy goodness, and forbearance, and long suffering, or forget that it is the design of all to lead me to repentance.

Blessed be thy name for the encouragement thou hast given me to repent of my sins, by the kind assurances of thy readiness to pardon and accept of all who are truly penitent. Blessed be thy name, that, unworthy as I am of the common bounties of thy providence, thou hast freely offered to my acceptance a share in the far richer treasures of thy grace. Never can I enough admire that unexampled love which thou hast manifested towards us, apostate creatures, in sending

thine only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him: That we might be formed to a life of holiness here by the influence of his word and spirit, and raised at length by his mighty power, to a life of eternal glory and felicity in another and a better world. O suffer me not to neglect that great salvation which he has brought within my reach; but make me duly solicitous to secure an interest in it, by such a lively faith in him, as shall effectually engage me to devote myself to him in all the ways of holy obedience.

Help me, O God, to live under a constant sense of my absolute and entire dependence upon thee, as well as of my unspeakable obligations to thee; and impart to me those powerful influences of thy grace which are necessary to enable me to mortify my sinful inclinations, to bear afflictions as I ought, to make a right use of every mercy and enjoyment, and to discharge the various duties of life in a holy and acceptable manner.

And whatever portion of time thou mayest allot me on earth, enable me to redeem it from vanity and sin; and to employ it so as may turn to the best account, not only in the life that now is, but in that also which is to come. May I be making daily advances in all wisdom, righteousness, and goodness, in piety and purity, in humility and meekness, in contentment and heavenly mindedness. Let me not be anxiously careful about the things of this life; what I shall eat, or what I shall drink, or wherewithal I shall be clothed; but let me seek, in the first place, the blessings of thy kingdom, and that righteousness which thou requirest as the necessary qualification for the enjoyment of them; depending upon thy promise that all these things, so far as they are really needful, shall then be added to me.

Keep me this day in innocence, and in love to thee, and to all about me. In all my ways let me acknowledge thee, and do thou direct my paths. Teach

me to guide my affairs with discretion; and in every respect to act in a manner suitable to the station wherein thy providence has placed me, and to the general relations which I sustain.

Bless the family to which I belong; and all my dear relatives and friends, whether near or at a distance. May we be all interested in thy peculiar favor and friendship; faithful in our duty to thee here on earth, and happy in the enjoyment of thee hereafter in heaven. All which, and whatever else thou seest needful and proper for me, for them, and for all mankind, I humbly entreat, for thy goodness sake in and through Christ Jesus thy Son, who has taught us to address thee under the endearing character of —— Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trepasses as we forgive them that trespass against

us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever....AMEN.

VI—*A Prayer for Monday Evening.*

O LORD, my God, thou art ever merciful and gracious. Thou causest the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice over me. I desire at this time, with a grateful sense of the numberless favors thou hast conferred upon me, and art continually renewing, day by day, to offer thee my evening sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and Redeemer.

I adore thee as the Author of my life and being; as the Former of my body, and the Father of my spirit. I

bless thee that thou hast made me a reasonable creature, hast designed me for immortality, and hast placed me here in a state of discipline, in order to train me up by a variety of exercises and trials, experiences and improvements, for the business and blessedness of another and better state.

And though I have in many instances acted in a manner unbecoming the dignity of my rational nature, and been far from answering, as I ought, the great ends of my creation; yet, blessed be thy name, thou hast not dealt with me according to my deserts, but continually hitherto hast thou upheld my soul in life; and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit. I thank thee, O Lord, for the watchful care and kind supplies of thy providence, for my health and strength, for my food and raiment, for my relatives and friends, and all my social advantages and enjoyments.

But more especially would I praise thee for the advantages and opportunities

thou hast afforded me for improving in the knowledge and practice of true religion; for obtaining the pardon of my sins, and an interest in thy forfeited favor through the mediation of thy beloved son; and for securing a title to that glorious inheritance, to the lively hope of which thou hast begotten us again, by his resurrection from the dead:... An inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for those who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. Suffer me not, I beseech thee, to receive thy grace in vain; but teach me so highly to value, and so diligently to improve all my present privileges and advantages, as that I may be prepared and qualified for those still greater blessings which thou wilt hereafter bestow on them that love and serve thee.

Forgive me, O thou Father of mercies, that I have hitherto made thee such unsuitable returns for thy great love and goodness; that I have lived so much a

stranger to thee; that I have loved thee no more, and served thee no better; that I have been so negligent in the discharge of my social and relative duties, and so careless even about my own highest concerns, my spiritual and everlasting interests. Pardon all the innumerable transgressions and provocations of my past life; and particularly whatever thou hast seen amiss in my temper or conduct this day. Give me that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance unto salvation, needing not to be repented of; and enable me to act a wiser and a better part in all respects, for the time to come.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. And by the efficacy of the exceeding great and precious promises of thy word, and the influences of thy blessed spirit, may I not only escape the corruptions that are in the world through lust, but be transformed into the image of thy moral perfections, and become a partaker of a

divine nature. For this purpose let me give all possible diligence to add to my faith fortitude, and to fortitude prudence, and to prudence temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness universal charity, that so these things being in me, and abounding, I may be neither inactive nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord. Thus let me make my calling and election to the privileges and hopes of the gospel, sure and stedfast; as knowing that if I do these things I shall never fall, but that an entrance shall be administered unto me abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of my dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Make me particularly mindful of the duties I owe to those with whom I am especially connected by the ties of relation or friendship, and help me to take the most prudent and effectual means to promote their comfort and welfare. I

would commend them as well as myself, to thy blessing and favor. Direct us, O Lord, by thine unerring wisdom; defend us by thine Almighty power, and provide for us by thy never failing goodness, through the various scenes and changes of this transitory state: Be our support and comfort in the awful hour of death, and our everlasting portion and felicity beyond the grave.

I would likewise, O most merciful God, recommend to thy gracious regard the whole world of mankind. Pity their follies and infirmities; deliver them from their sins, and from all those evils that are the fruits of sin. Bless these lands of Great Britain and Ireland, with our colonies and plantations beyond the seas. Preserve over rights and liberties, both civil and sacred; and let truth, righteousness, and peace, flourish and prevail amongst us. May our magistrates, supreme and subordinate, rule in thy fear, and be the ministers of God unto us for good. Have mercy on the sick and af

flicted; provide for the poor and needy, and do good unto all as their various cases and necessities may require.

As thou hast brought me to the close of this day in safety, so I beg the continuance of thy care and protection this night. Watch over me, O thou Preserver of men, in my defenceless moments, and, after quiet and refreshing sleep, raise me up in the morning, fitted for the duties and events of another day. And when this succession of days and nights shall be no more, receive me into that state where I shall serve Thee without intermission, and yet without weariness, through a long, happy, and endless day.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory, for ever and ever....AMEN.

VII—*A Prayer for Tuesday Morning.*

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father! Thou art the great Parent of the universe, and the Supreme Lord of all; by whom all things were created at first, and are continually supported and governed. I adore the glorious perfections of thy nature, the boundless power, wisdom, and goodness which thou hast displayed in all thy works, and most gratefully acknowledge the liberal communications of thy bounty and beneficence to me, who am unworthy of the least of thy mercies. I bless Thee for every instance of thy kindness and favor that I have experienced through all my past life, and particularly for the watchful care of thy good providence, by which I have been secured from the dangers of the last night, and brought to see the light of another day, in peace and comfort.

Thy mercies, O Lord, are new unto me every morning; great is thy faithfulness! And hence it is that I am not consumed, even because thy compassions fail not. Shouldst thou have dealt with me according to the number and weight of my transgressions, I should have long since been stripped of all my forfeited enjoyments, and have been wretched indeed, beyond all conception, and beyond all hope of being restored to thy favor.

But, blessed be thy name, I am still continued in the land of the living, a monument of thy patience and forbearance; furnished with a variety of good things relating to the life that now is, and encouraged to hope for far better blessings in the life to come, through thy wonderful love and grace manifested to a sinful world, by thy Son Jesus Christ. With admiration and gratitude would I contemplate the wise and gracious method thou hast contrived for recovering lost sinners to thyself, by the teaching and example, the sufferings and

death, the resurrection and ascension of this our once abased, but now glorified Redeemer; who is able to save, even unto the uttermost, all that come unto Thee by him; seeing that he ever lives to make intercession for us.

Grant me, O most merciful God, an interest in the benefits of his Mediatorial undertaking. Help me to seek and secure the blessings of pardon, peace, and eternal life, by a cheerful compliance with those terms of repentance, faith, and new obedience, on which they are offered to my acceptance. Enable me rightly to value and carefully to improve all my present privileges and all my future prospects, as becometh a Christian. And by that grace of thine, which bringeth salvation to men, teach me to deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously, and piously in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, to re-

deem us from all iniquity, and to purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Being bought with a price of such inestimable value, O let me never live as if I were at my own disposal; but engage me to serve and glorify Thee, not only with my body but with my spirit, which are thine. Let me chuse Thee, O thou greatest and best of Beings, as my Lord and my God, my Guide and Guardian, my Portion and Felicity; and let me cheerfully resign myself to be governed, directed, and disposed of by thine unerring wisdom, and according to the good pleasure of thy goodness.

Help me this day, and every day, so to walk as to please Thee, and to be constantly improving in the divine life and likeness. Keep me by thy grace from falling into sin, which is the greatest of all evils; then may I be assured that thou wilt preserve me from every thing else that might do me hurt; and even cause all things to work together for my

good. Prepare me for the general scenes and changes that may lie before me in this variable and transitory state, and especially for that great and most important change which I must pass through by death. Teach me to live always as I shall wish to have lived when I come to die. At that awful season put strength and confidence into my departing spirit; and after death receive me into thy more immediate presence, where there is fulness of joy; to dwell at thy right hand, where there are pleasures forever more. AMEN.

VIII.—*A Prayer for Tuesday Evening.*

MOST great and glorious God! With all humility and reverence would I prostrate myself before Thee, under a deep and affecting sense of thy Majesty and my own meanness; of thy bounty, and my indigence; of thy holiness, and my guilt.

Without thee, O Lord, I am nothing, I have nothing, and can do nothing. Upon Thee do I constantly depend for life, and breath, and being. I need the perpetual exertion of thy power for the continuance of my existence, and the support of my faculties; I need thy wisdom to direct my uncertain steps, thy goodness to supply my daily wants, thy mercy to pardon my numberless sins, and thy grace to assist me in the discharge of my duties. And I would rejoice that thou art ever ready to aid and befriend me.

Most gratefully must I acknowledge that hitherto thou, O Lord, hast helped and sustained me; provided for my necessities both of soul and body; caused thy goodness daily to pass before me; afforded me a plenty of the means of grace, and raised me, by the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ, to the hopes and prospects of eternal glory. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me praise and magnify his holy Name! Bless the Lord,

O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, and crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies.

What reason have I, great God, to lament that my heart has been no more affected with a sense of thy goodness; that I have foolishly slighted, and in many instances, abused thy favors; and not only neglected thy service, but acted in direct opposition to thy holy nature and will! I have neither obeyed nor loved Thee as I ought; but have rebelled against thy Sovereign authority, and made the most unworthy returns for all the expressions of thy paternal tenderness.

O Lord God, gracious and merciful! Pity my infirmity, and pardon my sins. And though I have so long, so often, and so ungratefully offended Thee, yet cast me not off from thy favor, but effectually recover me from my wanderings

to thyself. Help me to renounce and detest whatever is displeasing in thy sight; and with my whole heart to return and cleave unto Thee. And enable me, I beseech Thee, unfeignedly to comply with those merciful terms on which the blessings of the gospel are offered to me, that so I may be accepted of Thee in the beloved, and blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly things and places, in Christ Jesus.

I would desire daily to be making some advances in religious knowledge, by reading, meditation, and a diligent use and improvement of all those helps with which I am, or may be, furnished for this purpose. Grant that the more I know of thy nature, thy will, and thy grace, the more I may be disposed to love Thee with all my heart, and soul, and mind, and strength; to yield a cheerful compliance to thy Sovereign will, and to hope and trust to rejoice and delight myself in Thee.

And whilst I am endeavoring to fulfil the first and great commandment, by making Thee, O most glorious and gracious God, the object of my supreme veneration and affection, submission and confidence, suffer me not to forget the second, which is like unto it, of loving my neighbor as myself. I would labor to cultivate a sincere good will for all mankind; fervently wishing the happiness of every one; rejoicing in that tender love which thou exercisest towards all thy creatures, and cheerfully contributing whatever lies in my power to relieve the distresses and to promote the welfare of those that are round about me. Especially would I desire to be found in the discharge of those duties and obligations which result from the particular station, circumstances, and relations, wherein thy providence has placed me.

Accept of my thanksgivings for the mercies of the day past, which thou hast added to the sum of all thy past favors. Long as I live will I praise the Lord, and

magnify thy holy name while I have any being. Pardon whatever has been amiss in my disposition or behavior this day; and enable me to be more upon my guard against offending Thee for the time to come.

And now, Lord, what wait I for? Truly my hope is in thee; and under the shadow of thy wings will I put my trust. Watch over me this night. Suffer not any evil thing to come nigh this dwelling. May I lie down in thy fear, be refreshed with seasonable rest and sleep, and arise in thy favor, fitted and disposed for the duties of the following day. And grant that every day which thou shalt please to add to my life on earth, may be so spent and improved as to increase my fitness for the joys and glories of the heavenly state, through the mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son, in whose most comprehensive words I continue to pray for myself, and for all my brethren of mankind.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us, day by day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever....AMEN.

IX.—*A Prayer for Wednesday Morning.*

O THOU infinitely great and adorable Majesty of heaven and earth! Thou art ever present in all parts of thy vast dominions, and not far from any of thy creatures. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine uprising: Thou understandest my thoughts afar off, thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? I am convinced, O Lord, that it is as impossible to escape the notice of thine eye, as it is to subsist without thy supporting hand, or to be happy without thy favor. For even the darkness hideth not from Thee; but the night shineth as the day: The darkness and the light are both alike to Thee. O that I may be therefore careful to set the Lord always before me; to remember wherever I am, and whatever I am about, that thou God seest me; to live under a constant sense of my necessary dependence upon Thee, and of my numberless obligations to Thee; and accordingly to seek thy favor with my whole heart, and to dread thy displeasure above all things!

How deeply indebted am I to that goodness of thine which at first produced me into being, and has hitherto upheld me in life, preserved me from perpetual dangers, seen or unseen, and given

me so many days of comfort and nights of repose! How precious are thy thoughts of kindness and acts of mercy unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I attempt to count them, they are more in number than the sand. When I awake I am still with Thee; and see new occasions every morning to meditate on thy unwearied tenderness and care. But my highest obligations are to thy sovereign grace, for supplying me with the means of religious instruction; for affording me the most desirable helps and advantages both for knowing and doing thy will; and for setting before me the views and hopes of immortal life and happiness in the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ. Blessed be thy name for all thou hast done, art doing, and (if my sins prevent not the effects of thy goodness) wilt continue to do for my temporal, spiritual, and eternal welfare. Lord, help me to fall in with thy gracious and merciful designs; and let me not frustrate them by my own

carelessness, ingratitude, and rebellion against Thee.

Give me, good Lord, a just sight and sense of my unworthiness, folly, and guilt. What I know not, teach thou me; and whereinsoever I have done iniquity, or acted contrary to any of the laws of piety, truth, charity, or sobriety, may I do so no more. Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me; and lead me in the way everlasting.

Keep me this day, and every day, from sinning against Thee. May I live in thy fear all the day long, and be always on my guard against the many snares and temptations with which I am surrounded. Help me to keep my heart with all diligence; knowing that from thence are the issues of life. Let no vain thoughts, or corrupt imaginations, be harbored in my mind. Let me not give way to any unruly passions, or inordinate affections. Let me set a watch

at the door of my lips, and take heed that I offend not with my tongue. Suffer me not, I beseech Thee, to fall into any irregularity of conduct. May I daily walk with Thee in a course of holy living, so as to approve myself in thy sight; and not only from a principle of godly fear, solicitously avoid whatever is offensive to thy holy Majesty, but from the nobler principle of love, make it my supreme delight to serve, and imitate, and please Thee.

Prepare me, O Lord, for all the occurrences of the day. Teach me to see and own thy hand in every mercy and enjoyment. Or if thou sufferest any trouble or affliction to befal me, help me in a becoming manner to submit to thy will, believing that it is good for me to be afflicted, and endeavoring, by a wise improvement of thy chastisements, to become a partaker of thy holiness.

Give me a sympathetic sense of the sufferings of others; and do thou, O God, pity and relieve them. Mercifully

comfort such as are cast down; and be a present help to them that are in trouble. Let thy blessing be upon every member of the family to which I belong. Assist us all in the faithful discharge of our respective duties, and make us mutual blessings to each other. Guide us by thy counsel through life, and afterwards receive us to glory. All which I humbly intreat for thy mercy's sake in Christ Jesus; through whom I would ascribe to thy divine Majesty all honor and glory, thanksgiving and praise, both now and evermore....AMEN.

X.—*A Prayer for Wednesday Evening.*

GREAT and Gracious God! Thy mercies are new unto me every morning, and thy faithfulness every evening. Through thy good hand upon me, I am now brought to the close of another day, and would take this occasion to reflect with gratitude on thy great

and undeserved goodness to me all the days of my past life; to acknowledge my obligations to Thee for all that I am, and have, and my entire dependence upon Thee for all that I need, and for all thou hast encouraged me to hope for, humbly entreating that thou wilt enable me to honor and praise Thee, to love and serve Thee as the most excellent, amiable, and beneficent of all beings, my Father and Friend, my Lord and my God.

With shame and sorrow must I confess myself utterly unworthy of thy mercies, and lament that I have made no better improvement of them; and that the God in whose hand my breath is, and whose are all my ways, I have not glorified as I ought. I would grieve that I have lived so unmindful of Thee and of thy benefits, so forgetful of my duty to Thee, and to my fellow creatures, and so neglectful of my own highest interests. How much of my precious time have I wasted and mispent, in following after

lying vanities! How careless have I been of my temper and conduct, of the due government of my thoughts and affections, my words and actions! And in how many instances have I positively offended Thee, acted injuriously to others, or done wrong to my own soul!

Thou, O Lord, knowest all my foolishness, and my sins are not hid from Thee. Give me also a just sense of their number, aggravations, and malignity. Help me truly and sincerely to repent of them, so that I may be entitled to the pardon and remission of all my transgressions, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus thy Son. Blessed be thy name that, great and grievous as my offences against Thee have been, thou hast not left me in a helpless and hopeless state, but that there is mercy and forgiveness with Thee, that thou mayest be feared, and that in thy right hand there is plenteous redemption. Blessed be thy name for that covenant of grace and peace which thou hast estab-

lished with us the sinful children of men, in thy Son's blood; wherein the promises of pardon, acceptance, and eternal life are made to those who return unto Thee in the way of repentance, faith, and new obedience; and the assistance of thy holy Spirit is offered to all that ask it. O that I may be enabled so to comply with the terms of this covenant as to be entitled to an interest in its inestimable blessings; and may I study to make a proper improvement of them by a continual progress in grace and holiness.

I would desire to redeem the time that I have lost, by applying myself, with increasing diligence, to the practice of my duty, in its whole extent. Make me more faithful and constant in thy service, and more ready to every good work than I have hitherto been. May true wisdom and piety, justice and mercy, temperance and patience, humility and meekness, adorn the whole remainder of my life. And whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are venerable,

whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, may I so think of these things as to make them the constant objects of my pursuit and practice.

Keep me, O Lord, stedfast to thy covenant engagements. Help me to maintain my integrity, and to persevere in the practice of piety and virtue, amidst all those temptations to evil, by which I may be assaulted, from within or from without. Let no worldly allurements or terrors turn me aside from the strait path of my duty. Let me esteem the pleasures of religion and a good conscience as incomparably superior to all sensual pleasures, or criminal indulgences. Suffer me not to be anxiously careful about any inferior or temporal concerns, so as to neglect the one thing needful, the great business of religion, and the security of my immortal interests. But help me, good Lord, to be

every day making some preparation for my approaching change, and for appearing before Thee with acceptance, when, after death, I shall be called to judgment. And by a patient continuance in well-doing, may I so seek for honor, glory, and immortality, as in the end to obtain eternal life.

Pity and reform a world that lies in wickedness. Direct our common and national concerns, so as may be most conducive to the public welfare. Support, relieve, and comfort the afflicted. Remember all my dear relations and friends: Make them heirs of the grace of life, partakers of thy special favor here, and of eternal glory in the world to come.

O thou great Shepherd of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest! Take me, I beseech Thee, into thy protection this night, and defend me from all dangers and disasters. Let me lie down in peace with Thee, with my own conscience, and with all mankind. Refresh

my body with such comfortable rest and sleep, that in the morning I may be fitted and disposed with renewed vigor to serve Thee, and discharge the duties of my station. Be thou my God and Guide through life, my Support and Comfort in death; and after death my everlasting Portion and Felicity.

And now, unto him who is able to do for me far more exceedingly than I can ask or think, be glory, through Christ Jesus, world without end.... AMEN.

XI—*A Prayer for Thursday Morning.*

O LORD God Almighty! Thou art the blessed and only Potentate; the King of kings, and Lord of lords; the great Creator of heaven and earth; the Sovereign Lord and Proprietor of the universe. The heavens are thine, with all their hosts; the earth also is Thine, with the fullness thereof; the world, and

they that dwell therein. In thy hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. Thy dominion is an everlasting dominion; and thy kingdom is from generation to generation. Thou dost according to thy own will amongst the armies above, and amongst the inhabitants of this lower world; and there is none that can stay Thine hand, or that may say unto Thee, What dost Thou?

But, blessed be thy name, this thy uncontrollable power is constantly directed by unerring wisdom, and exerted in effecting the purposes of thy boundless goodness. So that there is the most abundant reason for all thy intelligent creatures to rejoice that the Lord God omnipotent reigneth; and in this joy I would bear my part.

I adore Thee, O Lord, as the Author of my being, the God of my life, and the length of my days. I acknowledge myself obliged by all thou hast done for me in my creation, preservation, and re-

demption, to serve Thee with fidelity and zeal. In thy continued care and kindness would I cheerfully confide, and quietly acquiesce in thy all wise disposals; being convinced of thy absolute right to rule over me, and to do with me as thou pleasest; and that whatever thou appointest is fittest and best. And accordingly to Thee, my Heavenly Sovereign, do I this morning lift up my eyes, earnestly desiring to learn thy will, to seek thy face, and to obtain thy favor.

I thank Thee that thou hast given me a law to be the rule of my life and conduct: That thou hast, by the united lights of nature and of scripture, taught me what is good, and what Thou the Lord my God requirest of me; even to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee my God. I thank Thee that, as thy laws are most reasonable and excellent in themselves, so they are enforced by the most engaging and endearing motives; and that thou hast

made it as much my interest as it is my duty to serve Thee.

Most deeply would I lament my guilt and folly in having lived so unmindful of Thee and thy laws; in having despised Thine authority, abused thy goodness, and counteracted thy gracious and benevolent intentions in my favor. Mercifully pardon and forgive whatever has been amiss in my past temper and conduct, and enable me to rectify it, by a course of new and better obedience for the time to come. I desire to renounce all those foreign Lords that have too long had dominion over me; and would now consecrate myself afresh to Thee; all that I am, and all that I have; the members of my body and the faculties of my soul; my worldly possessions, my time, my talents, and my influence over others, to be employed in thy service, and used for the advancement of Thine honor and interest in the world.

Yet from a sense of my own weakness, and after many lamentable proofs of

the instability of my good resolutions, I am forced to give up all self trust and confidence; and would earnestly seek the aids of thy grace, which alone is sufficient for me; begging that thou wilt manifest thy strength, in my weakness. Deliver me, O God, by thy mighty power, from the dominion and tyranny of every worldly and fleshly lust; from the bondage of corrupt habits, the influence of vain customs, and the contagion of evil examples. Fix the great principles of religion deeply upon my heart. Fill my soul with good affections towards thyself, and towards all my fellow creatures; and may the whole of my conduct be governed and regulated thereby. Also enable me so to improve all the dispensations of thy providence, the instructions of thy word, and the influence of thy spirit, as to be daily advancing from grace to grace, and from strength to strength, till I shall appear at length perfect before Thee in Zion.

To Thee, O God, who hast kept me the night past, and caused the light of another morning to open with comfort upon me, would I again commend myself, intreating the continuance of thy kind and favorable regard this day. Preserve me from the snares and dangers to which I may be exposed, and especially from the sins which most easily beset me. Quicken me to the discharge of the several duties that may lie before me, and prepare me for whatever occurrences I may meet with, whether prosperous or adverse.

Remember all my relations and friends, to do them good. Forgive my enemies, if I have any, and enable me to forgive them. Pity and relieve those that are in distress; and suit thy blessings to the wants, capacities, and qualifications of all thy creatures. Graciously hear these my humble requests which I offer up to Thee in the name of Jesus, the Son of thy love; to whom, and through whom

to Thee, O heavenly Father, I would ascribe everlasting praises....AMEN.

XII.—*A Prayer for Thursday Evening.*

HOLY, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, who art, and wast, and art to come! Thou art the righteous Lord, who lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity. Thy countenance beholdeth the upright with the most favorable regard; but thou hast no pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with Thee. Yet, notwithstanding Thine irreconcileable aversion to sin, thou art nevertheless kind and compassionate to returning sinners, slow to anger, and of great mercy; not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

With shame and sorrow for the numberless sins and offences of my past life, and particularly for what I have thought, or said, or done amiss this day, would I

now humble myself before Thee, admiring that goodness and patience of Thine which I have so ungratefully abused; entreating an interest in thy forgiving mercy, and a restoration to thy forfeited favor; and resolving in the strength of thy grace, to depart from all iniquity, and to regulate my future temper and conduct in a manner more agreeable to thy holy nature and will.

Enable me, O Thou great Pattern of all moral excellence, to purify myself, as thou art pure, to hate all sin with a perfect hatred, effectually to renounce and forsake every evil way, and to return unto Thee with my whole heart. As thou, who hast called me to the profession and privileges of the true religion, art holy, so may I be holy in all manner of conversation. Help me, I beseech Thee, to cleanse myself from all pollutions, both of the flesh and of the spirit, and to perfect holiness in thy fear.

Thou hast given us a perfect rule to walk by; but, alas! how exceeding!

defective is our best obedience! Who can understand his errors? Cleanse Thou me from secret faults. And though I can never hope, in this weak state of flesh and blood, to be free from all infirmities and miscarriages, yet, blessed Lord, keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins: Let them not have dominion over me, but may I so live as to maintain my integrity, and to be accounted upright before Thee; being innocent from all great and allowed transgressions.

Give me, O God, such views of thy greatness and goodness, and especially of thy love and mercy to a lost world, through thy Son Jesus Christ, as may fill my soul with reverence and admiration, with love and gratitude, with hope and confidence; as may draw out my strongest desires after Thee, and engage me to repose and delight myself in Thee. Help me to yield an unreserved obedience to all thy commands, and an humble submission to all the disposals of thy

providence. Let me always live and act under a sense of thy presence, and be careful to keep up such a daily intercourse and communion with Thee, as may tend to cherish every pious disposition and affection, to fit me for nearer approaches to Thee, and an uninterrupted enjoyment of Thee in the world to come.

Teach me, O Thou Father of Spirits, seriously to consider the nature of my own soul, and to set a suitable value upon it. Conscious of the dignity and importance of this immortal principle, let me labor and resolve to secure its happiness, whatever present gratifications are to be resigned, or whatever temporal sufferings are to be endured to that end. Help me so to cultivate and improve my understanding, and so to govern my affections, passions, and appetites, as shall not only prevent me from injuring myself or others, but best answer the great ends of my creation, and promote my noblest satisfaction and enjoyment. May

I be clothed with humility, and decked with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in thy sight of great price. May I be temperate in all things, pure in heart, and chaste in conversation; maintaining a fixed abhorrence of all prohibited sensual indulgences. May I learn, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content; and let Patience have her perfect work, that I may be complete and entire, wanting nothing.

Form me, likewise, I beseech Thee, O Thou lover of righteousness, peace, and truth, to a proper temper towards my fellow creatures. Make me careful to render unto all their dues, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men. May I take pleasure in doing every good office in my power to all around me, and especially to those with whom I am most nearly connected by the ties of natural relation, affinity, or friendship. And grant that in my general conduct I may act under the influence of that wisdom which is from above; which is first

pure, and then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and of good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Extend thy merciful regard to the whole world of mankind. Send the light of thy glorious gospel to the most distant parts of the earth; and make it every where effectual to enlighten the ignorant, to reclaim the vicious, and to promote the knowledge of divine truth, and the practice of universal holiness amongst men. Dwell in this land of my nativity; be the watchful Guardian of our rights and liberties; reform us from the highest to the lowest, and delight over us still to do us good. Relieve and comfort all that are in distress. Succeed the labors of the honest and industrious; cause the earth to bring forth her increase in due season, and satisfy our poor with bread.

Accept, good Lord, of my grateful acknowledgments for all the blessings, spiritual and temporal, personal and rela-

tive, with which thou hast favored me thus far in life, and particularly for the mercies of the day past. I would take encouragement from hence cheerfully to confide in the continuance of thy care and kindness. Into thy hands I commit the keeping of myself, and of all that are most dear to me this night. Protect us, if it be thy will, from every evil and danger, grant us quiet and comfortable repose, raise us up again in health and safety the ensuing day, and preserve us to thy heavenly kingdom, through the mediation of thy Son, Jesus Christ.... AMEN.

XIII—*A Prayer for Friday Morning.*

MOST glorious God! Thou art light, and in Thee is no darkness at all. The perfections of thy nature are bright, beautiful, and majestic, far beyond all our ideas and conceptions. Thou art

possessed of irresistible power and unerring wisdom; of unblemished purity, the most serene benignity, and consummate bliss. Thou dwellest in light inaccessible, and art the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, nor shadow of turning, and from whom all thy creatures derive whatever excellencies or advantages they possess. For thou, O Lord, art the great Source and Original of all our natural powers and capacities; of all our moral attainments and improvements; of all the good we do, and of all the blessings we either enjoy or hope for.

I praise Thee for the discoveries thou hast made of thy transcendent glories, in the works of thine hands, "in the heavens above, in the earth beneath, in the infinite varieties of thy creatures around me, and in my own stupendous frame of body and mind." But more especially would I praise Thee for the brighter discoveries of thy word, and that, although no man hath seen God at any

time, yet the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, hath declared him unto us, so far as was expedient for us to know him. I adore Thee, O Lord, for all the sacred and important instructions which he hath communicated concerning thy nature and will, thy love and grace: and particularly that he hath brought life and immortality to light, by his glorious gospel, and directed our feet into those paths of righteousness which lead to certain and endless bliss.

Shine, O Thou great Parent of light, into my dark and beclouded mind; dispel the shades of ignorance and error, and give me that spiritual wisdom whereby I may be enabled to discern things that differ, and to approve those things that are excellent. *Help me to walk all the day in the light of thy countenance*; and in thy light may I see light. Nor let me take up with the bare knowledge of thy [illegible] do it with [illegible] Sanctify

truth. Grant that my faith may grow exceedingly ; let it purify my heart, and work by love, and bring forth the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Make me sensible of the force and efficacy of those motives to holiness and virtue which are set before me in the gospel. Suffer me not, in the midst of that light which beams forth upon me from thence, to sleep, as too many others do ; but may I watch and be sober. May I walk as becomes a child of light and of the day, and not as of the night and of darkness. Enable me to work the work of him that hath sent me, while it is day, knowing that the night comes, wherein no man can work. Whatsoever my hand findeth to do for advancing thine honor and interest in the world, for promoting the welfare of others, especially of those for whom I ought to be peculiarly concerned, or for securing the salvation of my own soul, may I do it with all my might, and be careful to make the best improvement I am able,

of whatever portion of time thou mayest add to my earthly pilgrimage. And grant that I may walk in that path of the just, which is as the shining light, and will shine more and more unto the perfect day.

Accept of my grateful acknowledgments, O Lord, for the care thou hast taken of me, and the numberless favors thou hast conferred upon me, from the beginning of my life to the present moment, and particularly for the security and repose of the night past: May this day pass over my head in innocence and peace, and every part of it be spent so as to turn to some good account, to myself or others. To thy care and blessing I commend myself, and all that are near and dear to me, entreating that thou wilt keep us always in thy fear, and encompass us with thy favor. Help us to serve Thee faithfully while we live, and make us happy in Thee, and with Thee, after death, through the mediation of Jesus Christ the Son of thy Love, in whose

name and words I would sum up all my requests for myself and others, to Thee ——Our Father who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever....AMEN.

XIV—*A Prayer for Friday Evening.*

O BLESSED God, Thou Father of mercies and God of all grace, peace, and consolation! *Thou art love;* the most benevolent of all beings; the great eternal Fountain of felicity. Thou, and Thou only, art originally, perfectly, and essentially good in thyself, and thou delightest in doing good continually. Thou art

good unto all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. All thy works praise Thee, O Lord, and it becomes thy saints to bless Thee, and in a particular manner to magnify thy goodness, that supremely glorious and amiable perfection of thy nature, which renders Thee the worthy object of our most delightful contemplation, and grateful praise. I would rejoice in all the displays of thy diffusive benevolence, through the whole creation around me, but more especially would I praise Thee for the wonderful acts and instances of thy loving kindness to the children of men, and for the experience that I myself have had of thy bounty and benignity.

I adore Thee, as the Former and the Father of mankind, whose wise and powerful goodness is manifested in the curious structure of our bodies; but much more in the sublime powers and faculties of our minds; whereby we are most nearly allied to Thee our Maker, and rendered capable of knowing, loving,

serving, imitating, and enjoying Thee, the great Origin and Source of life and light, perfection, glory, and blessedness.

I adore Thee likewise for every instance and effect of thy providential care and kindness which I have experienced in common with the rest of my species, for those measures of bodily health and strength that I enjoy, for the free and regular exercise of my mental powers; for my liberty, my friends, and "all the necessaries, conveniences, and comforts which thy liberal hand has provided, to render my passage through this state of trial and discipline easy and agreeable to me."

But above all things would I praise Thee for the provision thou hast made for my future well being in another and better state of existence, after this present life (which is forfeited by sin) shall be ended. Adored be the riches of thy redeeming love and grace, as manifested in sending thine only begotten Son

into the world, to seek and to save that which was lost; to recover guilty rebels to thyself, and by his life and doctrine, his sufferings and death, his resurrection from the dead, and the power and authority with which he is invested at thy right hand, to effect the pardon, sanctification, and, salvation of all who will submit to be taught, to be ruled, and saved by him.

But while I am thus thankfully recognizing these expressions and displays of thy matchless love and paternal tenderness, how much reason have I, with shame and confusion of face, to lament my past ingratitude, and the many unworthy returns I have made for thy great and unmerited goodness! Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight, and am no longer worthy to be owned or treated as a child of thine. I acknowledge that my transgressions have been many and great; and wretched indeed must I be, shouldst thou deal with me according to my deserts. But thou

hast proclaimed thyself to be the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth; keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin. This is thy name for ever, and in this name would I hope and trust. O cast me not off from thy presence, I beseech Thee, and take not thy holy spirit from me, but in the multitude of thy tender mercies remember thou me. Blot out all my transgressions, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sins. Draw me effectually to thyself, by the cords of love, which are the bands of a man; receive me graciously, and love me freely.

I would desire always to retain such a grateful sense of my obligations to Thee as shall prove a principle of constant and universal obedience to thy laws, and engage me greatly to take delight in thy commandments. May I fear the Lord and his goodness, and dread nothing so much as to abuse thy kindness

and weary out thy patience. May I love Thee also above all, and, considering Thee as my portion and chief good, let the desires of my soul be drawn out after Thee, and my delight be centered in Thee.

And help me, O Thou God of love, to cultivate a most sincere and cordial benevolence to all my fellow creatures, regarding them as thine offspring, and doing the utmost, within my little sphere, to promote their welfare, and to advance that happiness, which is the great end of all thy works of creation, providence, and redemption. But let me love those with a peculiar and distinguishing affection, who are most like Thee, and who are the objects of thy special love. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from me, with all malice, and may I be kind to those about me, tender hearted, and ready to forgive such as may offend me, even as I hope, through Jesus Christ, to obtain forgiveness of Thee. Teach me to love

even my enemies, to wish well to them that hate me (if any such there be) and to return good for evil, that so I may approve myself one of thy genuine children, and be merciful as thou art merciful, and perfect as thou my heavenly Father art perfect.

From my past experience of thy tender care and unwearied kindness, I would take encouragement to hope that goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my future life; and desire most cheerfully to trust Thee with myself, and with all that belong to me, to be disposed of as thou shalt see good. Into thy hands I commend myself this night, both soul and body. Let me lie down with holy and delightful thoughts of Thee, and in the morning, when I awake, let my heart be raised afresh in sentiments of love and gratitude to Thee; and, with renewed pleasure and resolution, let me devote the remainder of my life to thy service. These my supplications and thanksgivings I humbly offer up to Thee, O most

merciful Father, in the name of Jesus Christ thy well beloved Son, and my all sufficient Saviour; to whom be all glory and dominion for ever and ever.... AMEN.

XV—*A Prayer for Saturday Morning.*

ETERNAL and infinite Jehovah! Thou art God, and there is none besides Thee, the great Original and Support of universal nature; who derivest thy being from none, but givest being to all things. Thou art self sufficient and all sufficient; supremely blessed in thyself, and the Author of all good to thy creatures. Thou, O Lord, art worthy to receive honor, and glory, and blessing; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created; for thy display of thy goodness, and the communication of thy felicity. O that I may be enabled to praise and glorify

Thee as I ought, and to seek my happiness alone in Thee.

I would desire always to regard Thee as my origin and end; to remember that my own being, in particular, is derived from Thee, and perpetually supported by Thee; and that it is in consequence of having obtained help of God that I continue unto this day an instance of thy sparing and preserving mercy, and a witness of thy overflowing beneficence. How liberally hast thou provided, most gracious Lord, not only for the supply of my wants, but for my innocent delight and comfort! What a profusion of gratifications for my outward senses and imagination! What nobler pleasures for the entertainment of my mind, in the discovery of the most sublime and important truths! And, above all, how much am I indebted to Thee for those moral powers and capacities with which thou hast endowed me; for those benevolent propensities implanted in my nature, which, while they carry me out of

myself, contribute so largely to my own felicity; and for that highest of all human satisfactions, which arises from knowing, loving, serving, and enjoying Thee, under the endearing characters of my Father and Friend, my Portion and chief Good!

O that my heart may be duly affected with a sense of the benefits thou hast already conferred upon me, and of the more valuable blessings thou hast encouraged me to hope for hereafter, through the mediation of thy Son Jesus Christ! Continue to me, I beseech Thee all needful communications of thy mercy and favor. Grant me such a share of outward accommodations and enjoyments as thou mayest see convenient for me; but, above all, lead me in the paths of righteousness, to the true perfection and felicity of my nature.

Forgive me, great and blessed God, that I have wandered so far from Thee; that I have been so unmindful of the duties I owe Thee; and have taken so

little care to secure that felicity which is centered in Thee; that I have committed those two great evils, of forsaking Thee, the Fountain of living waters, and of hewing out to myself cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. O convince me of the folly of seeking for happiness in any thing short of thyself, or in any other way than in that of thy commandments. Convince me, that in thy favor only there is life; and that thy loving kindness is better than life; with all its enjoyments. Help me to choose Thee as my all sufficient and never failing portion; and accordingly to hope, and trust, and delight myself in Thee. And let it be my constant care and endeavor, so to order my inward temper and my outward conduct and behavior as is most agreeable to thy will; so as most effectually to gain thy favor and approbation; and thereby to secure, not only my present peace and comfort, but my future and everlasting welfare.

Enable me this day to walk closely with Thee; to act as under the notice of thine eye, and to rejoice in the manifestations of thy love. Prepare me for whatever scenes of prosperity or adversity may lie before me; and succeed me in all my endeavors after self improvement and usefulness to others. Bless all my friends, relations, and acquaintances; unite us all to one another in the bonds of mutual love, and to thyself, by the practice of piety and holiness; and grant that, after having served thee, and our generation, according to thy will, in our several stations here upon earth, we may at length be received into the joys and glories of thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ thy Son, the great Captain of our salvation.

Now unto him of whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things, be glory for ever....AMEN.

XVI—*A Prayer for Saturday Evening.*

O THOU supremely great, and incomprehensible glorious Being! Thou infinite and eternal Spirit, who art the only living and true God; unchangeable in thy nature, universal in thy presence, and uncontrolable in thy dominion; of whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things!

No works are like unto thy works: No excellencies and perfections are worthy to be compared with thine; which shine forth in all thy designs of creation, of providence, and of redemption. I would desire to mediate upon them with a sacred and salutary delight. Enable me, O thou Father of Spirits, to worship Thee in spirit and in truth, to revere thy irresistible power, to admire the depths of thy unsearchable wisdom, and to rejoice in all the communications and displays of thy exuberant goodness. Help me so to contemplate the beauty and

glory of thy moral attributes, thy truth and righteousness, thy purity and benignity, as that I may be transformed into the same image, from glory to glory. And from a full conviction of the equity of thy government, and the beneficial design and tendency of all thy laws, may I be disposed to yield a cheerful and unreserved compliance with every intimation of thy will.

Forgive me, O most gracious God, that my thoughts have been no more fixed upon Thee; that my affections have been no more drawn out after Thee; that I have been so unlike to Thee, the Pattern of all perfection; and have taken so little care to serve and please Thee. Under a deep and humbling sense of my past sin and folly, I would now resolve by thy divine assistance, to cultivate a growing acquaintance with Thee, and all suitable dispositions towards Thee; a greater conformity to thine adorable excellencies in the spirit of my mind, and a more en-

fire obedience to thy precepts in the course of my life; that so I may bring forth all the fruits of righteousness which are by Christ Jesus, to the praise and glory of God.

Blessed be thy name, O God of grace, for the revelation thou hast made of thyself to us, of the duties thou requirest of us, and of the blessedness which thou hast designed for us, in the gospel of thy Son. I praise Thee that thou didst send him into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world, through him, might be saved; to offer pardon and forgiveness to penitent offenders; to point out the way to eternal life and happiness, through his instructions and example; and to seal the promises of that new covenant, of which he was the mediator, with his dying blood. And as, by thy determinate counsel and foreknowledge, he was delivered up to sufferings and death for our offences, so I praise Thee that, by the energy of thy mighty power, he was rais-

ed again for our justification, that we might have the fullest assurance of our acceptance with God, through him, and that, because he lives, wemight live also.

Grant me, O Lord, I beseech Thee, a saving interest in the blessed fruits of his life and doctrine, of his sufferings and death, of his resurrection and exaltation at thy right hand. And for this end, excite and cherish in my soul a true, lively, and efficacious faith in him. The life which I live in the flesh I would desire to live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. And O that the great and interesting truths which he has brought to light in his glorious gospel, may not only gain the assent of my understanding, but sink deep into my heart, and have a commanding influence on the whole of my conduct! Let me imbibe the spirit as well as the doctrine of Jesus, my gracious Lord. Let the same mind be in me which was also in him. May I take his yoke upon me, and learn of him who

was meek and lowly of heart, that so I may find rest to my soul. And help me, in all respects, to walk worthy of that high and holy calling, wherewith he has called me; worthy of the great and important privileges that are conferred upon me, and of the glorious hopes that are set before me.

Raise my affections more and more, blessed God, to those things which are above; and teach me to moderate my regard to all inferior and sensible objects. Free me from all inordinate cares about the things of this life; from all distrust of thy good providence; from all repining language and discontented thoughts. And enable me in every situation and circumstance of life to be not only patient and resigned, but cheerful and thankful; knowing that all things are ordered by Thee in the wisest and best manner, and so as shall work together for good to them that love Thee.

Most gratefully would I adore that goodness and mercy of thine that have

attended me all my days, and supplied me with all things needful to my comfortable subsistence in life. And I particularly bless Thee, at this time, for the protection and supplies of the day and week past. Pardon, I beseech Thee, whatever fresh guilt I may have contracted therein. And as one day and week is passing away after another in swift succession, let me be careful to redeem the time I have lost or mispent, by a redoubled diligence in thy service, for the remainder of my uncertain life; and to improve every opportunity of doing or receiving good, and of preparing for that eternal state to which I am hastening. Continue thy watchful care over me this night; and grant me such refreshing sleep as may fit me for serving Thee acceptably and profitably on thy own day ensuing.

And, O Thou common Father of mankind, permit me to breathe forth my fervent wishes for the welfare of all my *brethren*, the fellow members of that

great family of thine, which is spread over all the earth. O that all might be partakers, not only of the bounties of thy providence, but of the richer blessings of thy grace; that all might so come to the knowledge of thy truth, as to be saved according to thy gracious will, through Jesus Christ, the Mediator between God and man, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time! Let all christian churches every where flourish, and also abound in truth and peace, in love, and in all good works. Let all the lands of the whole world, and the dominions thereto belonging, be still favored by Thee; and let the inhabitants thereof be careful to make a better improvement of thy distinguishing favors. Bless our rulers and governors, supreme and subordinate, and make their administration productive of great and extensive good. Give success to the labors of those who preach the gospel of thy Son, in its purity and simplicity; and may the power of godliness be visible in

the lives of all professing christians. Have mercy on such as are in affliction; and afford them suitable and seasonable relief. Bless the family to which I belong; may every member of it be graciously regarded by Thee; and may all my friends be thine. Preserve them from all real evil; and delight over them, to do them good.

And now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding great joy; to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever.....AMEN.

OCCASIONAL DEVOTIONS,

FOR THE CLOSET.

I.—*A Prayer suited to the Case of a careless Sinner, awakened to a Sense of his Duty and Danger.*

O THOU infinitely great, ever blessed, and ever glorious Being, the Almighty Creator and constant Preserver of all things, wherever I turn my eyes I behold the most evident proofs and manifestations of thy being, thy presence, and thy agency. Thou art seen in every object around me, and felt in every vein and nerve within me! It is thou, O Lord, I am fully convinced, who didst form me by thy wisdom, and who dost continually sustain me, and support all my perceptive and active powers by thy

unremitting energy. Thou art always near me wherever I am, and however I am employed; and in Thee do I live, and move, and have my being.

In common with the rest of thy numerous creatures, I am every day partaking of the effects of thy providential care and kindness; and am under numberless obligations to Thee for the supply of my bodily wants, and for my comfortable subsistence in this present transitory state. But much more am I indebted to Thee for the richer blessings of thy grace; for the intimations thou hast given of thy nature and will, of my duty and most essential interests, by the united lights of reason and revelation; and for the wonderful provision thou hast made, especially in the gospel of thy Son, for my spiritual and everlasting welfare, for the pardon of my sins, the sanctification of my nature, and the salvation of my soul.

What returns of duty and gratitude, O Thou Creator, Preserver, and Redeemer of the world, mayest thou not most

justly expect from all thy reasonable creatures! With what reverence, admiration, and love, should our hearts be filled towards Thee! Under what a lively sense of thy presence should we walk before Thee! And, how fit is it "that a care to please Thee should swallow up every other care!"

But, O Thou greatly injured Benefactor, how hast thou been neglected, forgotten, and affronted by me! I have lived as without Thee in the world, though I know that the world is supported and upheld by Thee; and that I am nothing, and have nothing, and can hope for nothing, but of and from Thee. Instead of seeking after Thee, and contemplating upon Thee as I ought, how little hast thou been in all my thoughts! How seldom have I, with a becoming awe, reflected on thy presence with me, and inspection over me! How unmindful have I been of thy mercies, how unthankful for them, and how unfruitful under them! That homage which is thy most

unquestionable due, I have unnaturally withheld from Thee; and have taken no care to gain thy favor and approbation, by attending to the great business of religion, which is the end and glory of my nature.

Blessed God, when I think but for a moment of thy transcendent greatness and goodness, I am astonished that I have lived so regardless of Thee, and have been guilty of numberless offences against Thee. "I blush and am confounded to lift up my face before Thee. On the most transient review of my conduct, I see that I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly." What more than brutal stupidity....what more than brutal ingratitude have I discovered! For the ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib; but I have not known Thee, my great Proprietor and Lord, as I ought, nor have I duly considered the vast and mighty obligations thou hast laid upon me.

And can I slight thy mercies, O Thou great Fountain of all good, without incurring thy judgments! Can I live in the neglect of my duty, and trifle with my conscience and my God, with impunity! Is not my danger as great as my folly, ingratitude, and guilt? Art thou not a righteous as well as merciful God? Wilt thou not call me to an awful and severe account for my neglect of Thee, and my rebellions against Thee, for every wilful and presumptuous sin, whether it be omission or commission? And is not destruction and misery in the ways of those who wander from their God? O let me not vainly expect either present peace or future safety while I continue a stranger to Thee, and in a state of disaffection towards Thee; nor suffer me to indulge an indolence of temper, or heedlessly to pursue any such evil courses as will, without repentance, involve me in ruin.

I am convinced, O Lord, that if I remain thus far from Thee, I must perish,

Thy favor is the only real ground of security and hope; and this I can never attain without earnestly seeking it, in the way of my duty. O pluck me, I beseech Thee, as a brand from the burning. Bring me, before it be yet too late, to an effectual sense of my sin and folly; set my great danger before me in the strongest light, and point out to me the only way to escape it. Teach me so to think on my ways, as to turn my feet into thy testimonies; so that I may make haste and not delay to keep thy commandments. Help me to seek Thee whilst thou mayest yet be found, and to call upon Thee whilst thou art near. And Oh that I may be persuaded at length to attend to the things that belong to my peace and welfare, before they are hid from my eyes.

Break, gracious God, that fatal enchantment which binds my soul to earthly and sensual objects. Let not my heart be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin; but melt and subdue it by thy

heavenly grace. Teach me that lesson which I am so slow to learn; teach me to know, to love, and to practise my duty. Give me a taste for the pleasures of religion and devotion. Let my thoughts be employed in meditating upon the best things; refine and spiritualize my affections, elevate and ennoble my pursuits. Quicken my desires after Thee; and help me with full purpose of heart to cleave unto the Lord.

Pardon and forgive, I humbly beseech Thee, the numberless sins and transgressions of my past life; enable me to act a wiser and a better part in all respects for the time to come; and accept of me, and of all my poor attempts to serve Thee, for thy mercy's sake, in and through Christ Jesus, thy beloved Son, whom thou hast appointed to be the Saviour of sinners, even the chief of them; to whom be everlasting praises. AMEN.

II—*The Sinner's Confession, under a strong Sense of his Guilt, and his earnest Prayer for Pardon.*

"O MOST glorious God! Thou art the Fountain and Original of universal nature, the Father of angels and men; the all wise and righteous Governor of heaven and earth. From the highest heavens, the habitation of thy holiness, and where thine honor dwells, thou beholdest all the children of men; and their most secret actions are open to thine all seeing eye; and such is the purity of thy nature, that thou lovest righteousness and hatest iniquity, wheresoever thou beholdest it; neither can evil dwell with Thee."

How obnoxious must I then be to thy just and severe displeasure, who have lived so long in a sad neglect of Thee, and even in a course of rebellion against Thee; whose temper and dispositions have been so contrary to thy holy nature,

and whose actions have been so unconformable to the manifestations of thy righteous will! "Thou, O Lord, knowest my foolishness; and none of my sins are hid from Thee. If I should pretend to justify myself, my own mouth condemns me; if I should say I am perfect, it would prove me perverse. For innumerable evils have encompassed me about; mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head; therefore my heart faileth me."

I am convinced, great God, that thou hast an absolute right, and unalienable claim to my homage and allegiance. Thou hast given a law to all thy reasonable creatures, which is holy, just, and good; and I was born under indispensable obligations to obey it; which have been unspeakably strengthened and increased by thy constant care, and the numberless favors thou hast freely conferred upon me, through the whole of my life. But, alas! In how many aggra-

vated instances have I revolted from Thee, trampled on thy authority, disregarded thy salutary counsels and injunctions, abused thy goodness, and defied thy vengeance! How often have I violated the sacred laws of piety and truth, of righteousness and charity, of temperance and sobriety! And hereby have I not most highly offended Thee, my rightful and gracious Sovereign, as well as injured my fellow creatures, and wronged my own soul!

How unnaturally have my thoughts and affections, my desires and pursuits, been alienated from Thee, the centre of all good! How have I cast off thy fear, and restrained prayer before Thee! Or, when engaged in the outward acts of public or private devotion, how have I mocked, instead of worshipping Thee! Drawing near to Thee with my mouth, while my heart was far from Thee! How have I profaned thy name, thy Sabbaths, and thy ordinances! Slighted thy word, and despised thy servants!

What reason have I to be humbled, O God, in thy sight, for the pride of my heart, for thinking of myself more highly than I ought to think, and for every degree and appearance of haughtiness, scorn, and disdain! What reason to bewail my proneness to rash and sinful anger, envy, malice, and revenge! How far have I been from loving my neighbor as myself, or from doing in all respects to others as I would have them do to me! Of what falsehood, deceit, and treachery, of what violence and cruelty, have I in some instances been guilty! Of what slander and evil speaking! Of what foolish talking and corrupt communication! How often have I been a partaker of other mens' sins! And how often, alas, have I betrayed others into sin, either by direct solicitations, or by the influence of my own evil example! And, O, what a load of guilt have I thus brought upon myself!

Nor am I more excuseable in thy sight for those evil dispositions, habits,

and practices which more immediately relate to my own concerns: In subjecting my reason and conscience to my own inclinations, appetites, and passions; in minding the things of the flesh more than the things of the spirit; and in loving my carnal ease and pleasures more than Thee, my God. Have I not too often abused the gifts of thy providence, by indulging hurtful excesses! What corrupt desires have I harbored in my heart! And how improper and immodest have my words and actions frequently been! What an excessive fondness for the world, its possessions and enjoyments, have I discovered; foolishly preferring my present and temporal, to my future and eternal interests; and minding earthly things, to the neglect of heaven and heavenly objects! And whilst the one thing needful has been forgotten, with what anxious and solicitous care have I pursued these inferior advantages! How peevish and impatient have I been under outward crosses and afflictions! And at best how discontented with my lot!

In all these respects, it is chiefly against Thee, O great God, that I have sinned, and done this evil in thy sight. And, considering the number and weight of my transgressions, I have reason to be astonished at thy continued forbearance and long suffering. My life and soul are forfeited into thine hands; and most justly mightest thou have long since cut me off from life, with all its advantages and enjoyments, and have sentenced my guilty soul to a state of misery and anguish proportioned to the malignity of my offences.

But though I have, in effect, destroyed myself, yet, blessed, be thy name, in Thee is my help found! With Thee there is mercy and forgiveness, that thou mayest be feared; and in thy right hand there is plenteous redemption. Thou hast solemnly declared that thou desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should repent and live. Thou art ready to receive returning sinners, art waiting to be gracious to them, and re-

conciling them to thyself, by Jesus Christ, not imputing to them their trespasses.

To Thee, O Lord, would I therefore apply, with earnest importunity, for pardoning mercy and for renewing grace. I would return unto Thee with humility and a deep sense of the malignity of my sins, entreating Thee to blot out all my transgressions from the book of thy remembrance, to receive me graciously, and to love me freely. Suffer me not, on the one hand, to despair of thy forgiving mercy; nor, on the other, to presume upon it, as giving a licence to sin; but let me consider it as a prevailing motive and powerful encouragement to repentance. Let me not content myself with barely confessing my sins; but help me effectually to renounce and forsake them, that so I may be assured of obtaining mercy.

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. O reduce my wandering mind to a thorough

consideration of those things that concern my everlasting peace; and my stubborn will to a determinate resolution to pursue them. "My sole dependence is upon Thee: My hope of success" in this great work of repentance unto life, is wholly in Thee. "Help, Lord, or else I perish: Stretch forth thy powerful arm to save my sinking soul; and let not this deep swallow me up;" but give me such a sense of the evil of sin, such a genuine remorse and penitential sorrow on account of my numerous and aggravated transgressions, such a lively faith in the declarations of the gospel, and such strong desires of having an interest in thy favor and friendship, as that I may be effectually persuaded, "to part with every sin, be it ever so dear, and to comply with every duty, be it ever so contrary to my corrupt inclinations. Thus shall I be reconciled to Thee, my offended Sovereign; and thus only can I secure my present peace and everlasting welfare, according to the riches of thy

grace and mercy, as manifested in the gospel of thy Son Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever....AMEN.

III—*A Prayer against Temptations to delay the Work of Religion, when convinced of its Importance.*

O THOU righteous and holy Sovereign of heaven and earth! Thou art the God in whose hand my breath is, and whose are all my ways." I am indebted to Thee for all that I am and have, and dependant upon Thee for all that I need or hope for. But great as my obligations are to Thee, and absolutely dependent as I am upon Thee, I have been far from glorifying Thee as I ought, from acknowledging Thee in all my ways, or from conducting myself according to the discoveries of thy will.

I have reason to adore thy forbearance and goodness, that thou hast not *long* since stopped my breath, and cut

me off from the land of the living....that thou art lengthening out the space given me for repentance, though I have so long delayed this great and necessary work.... that thou art still waiting to be gracious to me, though I have thus far rejected the offers of thy grace; and art renewing thy calls and invitations, though I have hitherto refused harkening to them. O that I may no longer turn a deaf ear to thy calls, reject thy counsels against myself, abuse thy patience, and weary out thy forbearance; but let thy goodness lead me to repentance, and suffer me not to trifle with Thee to my ruin.

"I am convinced, O Lord, that sooner or later, religion must be my serious care, or I am undone. Nor do I dare, thou knowest to give up all thoughts of repentance and reformation. But, alas! How easily have I been persuaded to put off this great and necessary business, from time to time, to some fancied more convenient season! With what reluctance do I think of parting

with my sins....and how does my foolish heart draw back from the yoke of duty, and plead for its own indulgence, against the dictates of my better judgment!"

O convince me effectually of the folly and danger of this dilatory, wavering, and irresolute conduct. Save me, good Lord, from myself, from my own weakness and perverseness, from the impositions of my own senses and passions, and the obstinate force of all inveterate evil habits. Suffer not my heart to be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Convince me that, by every wicked indulgence and pursuit, I am not only offending Thee, but wounding, injuring, and endangering my own soul, and making work, at best, for a bitter repentance.

Give me, I beseech Thee, such a view of the shortness and uncertainty of life, as may prevent me from confiding in it, and putting off my great concern any longer. Suffer me not to deceive myself with the false and dangerous imagination, that the difficulty of turning

from sin to holiness will be less at any time hereafter than at present, since I have found, by sad experience, how much evil habits are strengthened by long indulgence, and the remonstrances of conscience are enfeebled by being often stifled and controled. Nor let me presume to expect more powerful assistances of thy holy spirit, in consequence of having grieved and affronted him, by resisting those which he has already afforded. But, O that I may now yield to his gracious influences; carefully cherish every serious impression that may be made on my heart, and diligently improve all the helps and advantages of a religious nature with which I am favored.

Leave me not to myself, good Lord, I entreat Thee; seal me not up under a judicial blindness of mind and hardness of heart, but follow me with thy word and thy spirit, with thy mercies, or with thy judgments, if they are needful; and by any means which thou mayest know

to be most proper and effectual, rouse me from my stupid lethargy, and recover me to thyself. Help me to lift up my eyes and my soul unto Thee; and to devote myself unfeignedly to thy honor and service; and let me now begin to cultivate a friendship with Thee which shall last forever, and be the glory and delight of my immortal nature.

Cut me not off from the land of the living before I am fit for death and judgment, but O spare me, good Lord, for thy mercy's sake; spare me a little longer, till I shall amend, and bring forth fruits meet for repentance; until my evil inclinations, propensities, and habits shall be subdued; until I shall have acquired a relish for the acts and exercises of piety and virtue, and so be formed to a meetness for the sight and enjoyment of Thee, the great Fountain of all good; for the happy society of holy angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect; and for all the business and blessedness of the heavenly state. And O that, from

this day, this hour, and this moment, such deep and serious impressions of religion may be made on my heart, as shall never be worn out and obliterated, but shall issue in a thorough conversion, and terminate in everlasting glory and felicity....AMEN, and AMEN.

IV—*The convinced Sinner praying to be more deeply affected with a View of his aggravated Guilt, and to be freed from the Power and Punishment of Sin.*

O MOST great and glorious, most holy, righteous, and merciful God! With what awe and reverence, with what fear and contrition of soul, and yet with what hope in thy mercy does it become me to draw near unto Thee, and to pour out my heart before Thee!

Thou hast been pleased to awaken me to some sense of my sins, and of my danger, and to convince me of the ne-

cessity of forsaking them, and of returning to Thee in the way of duty and holy obedience, in order to my partaking of that happiness of which thou hast made me capable, and necessarily desirous. I know that I am vile and wretched; that I have acted very wickedly, and very foolishly; that I have lived not only in a sad and inexcuseable neglect of my duty, but in the wilful and habitual practice of that which is evil in thy sight. Yet still I want to be more deeply affected with sorrow and remorse on account of my sins; to have a more alarming view of the dangers that threaten me, if I continue to indulge them. O that I might now know and see how evil a thing, and bitter it is, to have forsaken Thee, the Lord my God; to have cast off thy fear, and violated my allegiance to Thee.

Of what presumption and arrogance have I been guilty, in magnifying myself against Thee, the God of Heaven, and lifting up my rebellious hand in opposi-

tion to the great Sovereign of the universe! How absolute is that authority which I have slighted! How excellent are those laws which I have violated!.... Laws wisely calculated for the most beneficial purposes; not only just and holy, but good; — good in themselves, good in their general tendency, and especially good, pleasant, profitable, and honorable to those who live in the conscientious practice of them.

I have sinned, O Lord, against the clearest light and knowledge of my duty, against the decisions of my own reason and judgment, the remonstrances of my conscience, and the discoveries of thy word and will in the gospel. I have added presumption to my folly, wilfulness to weakness; having despised the counsels, exhortations, promises, and assistances. Thou hast written to me the great things of thy law; but I have accounted them as a strange thing. I have known to do good, but yet have

not done it; and therefore in me the omission of it has been peculiarly sinful.

I have known something of the unspeakable advantages that are to be found in the way, and to be expected as the reward of my duty, and yet have not been induced thereby to engage in the practice of it. And though I have been very awfully warned of the dreadful consequences of disobedience, yet with what daring presumption have I exposed myself to them.

And, O Thou most compassionate Father and Friend of the human race, how much more aggravated are my offences, when considered as committed against the experience I have had of thy loving kindness and tender mercies towards me, against the endearing ties of gratitude, as well as against the obligations of duty and interest, and the strong influence of those hopes and fears which are deeply rooted in my nature, and powerfully applied to in thy word, for the most salutary purposes! Thou, O Lord,

hast nourished and brought me up as one of thy children, and yet I have rebelled against Thee. Thou wast the watchful Guardian of my infant days, and hast been my Guide and Protector, my constant Preserver, and unwearied Benefactor, through all my advancing years. My rational powers and faculties were given, and are continued by Thee; and to Thee am I indebted for every opportunity of improving them. Whatever worldly comforts I enjoy, are the effects of thy unmerited bounty; and it is to thy rich and free grace that I owe the discoveries and invitations of the gospel; the offers of pardon and reconciliation, and the prospects of eternal glory and felicity, through the mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son. And yet, O thou best of beings, how have I abused thy goodness, misapplied my capacities and advantages, despised thy grace, and rejected the offers of life and salvation!

Convince me, merciful God, of the malignity of those offences which I have

committed against such clear light and knowledge, against so many gracious calls and warnings. Free me from the power and prevalence of evil habits, from the influence of corrupt examples, and from the aggravated folly and iniquity of transgressing laws which are so righteous and holy, so just and pure, and which tend so much to the happiness, the *eternal* happiness, of all who obey him.

Guard me especially against the deceitfulness of my own heart. May I never suffer any wicked inclinations, any corrupt desires, so far to impose upon me, as to lead me contrary to the dictates of conscience or the injunctions of the gospel.

May the example and precepts of my great Redeemer be the constant subjects of my meditation. Him may I ever earnestly desire to imitate and obey. Thus may I be freed from the dominion of corrupt lusts and sinful affections, and grow more and more into a resemblance of my Saviour, and into a capacity of en-

joying that happiness which he is gone to prepare for all his sincere disciples and followers.

May divine grace in this way enable me to escape the dreadful punishments which will certainly be inflicted upon all obstinate sinners; and may the good spirit of God lead me from one degree of holiness and virtue to another, until at length I become meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. Then may celestial envoys conduct me safe to those ravishing and transporting joys, which will be the eternal possession of all those who trust in the mercy and goodness of God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ; to whom be glory in all the churches, world without end....AMEN.

A very short Morning Prayer, to be used by a Person on a Journey, or when straitened for Time.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, I adore Thee as the Former and

Upholder of all things; as the Author of my life and being, the Fountain of all my past and present mercies, and the Foundation of all my future hopes.

Blessed be thy name for the repose of the last night, and for causing me to see the light of another day in comfort. Keep me this day in thy fear and love; and wheresoever I may go, or in whatever occupations I may be engaged, let me not forget Thee, or be drawn aside from the path of my duty into the ways of sin or folly.

By all the occurrences of the day, may I learn some profitable lessons: In all my converse with others, may I aim at doing and getting good. Let my views be always directed heaven wards while I am passing through this world: And, finally, grant me a joyful admission into thy glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life; for whom I praise Thee, and to whom I would ascribe the glory of his gracious undertaking in behalf of

our sinful care, for ever and ever..... AMEN.

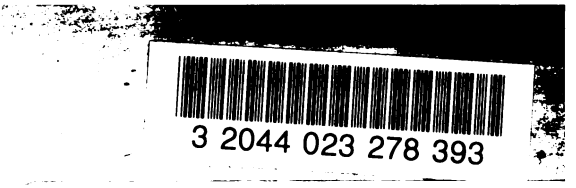
A very short Evening Prayer.

GREAT and good God, in whom I live, and move, and exist! Another day hast thou now added to my forfeited life, and most gratefully would I acknowledge thy unwearied care and kindness in keeping me from dangers, and providing for the supply of all my wants from day to day. With grief and shame must I at the same time confess and bewail the many errors, imperfections, failings of my past life, and particularly any instances wherein I have this day transgressed thy righteous laws, or neglected the duty which I owe Thee. Pardon, good Lord, for thy mercy's sake, as manifested in and by thy Son Jesus Christ, whatever hath been amiss in my past temper and conduct. Cleanse me by thy sanctifying grace from all un-

righteousness, that I may always live for the time to come, as under thine immediate presence, and as becometh one who is accountable to Thee for the whole of his conduct.

I now commit myself to thy Guardian care during the darkness and silence of this night. May I awake in the morning refreshed with comfortable sleep, and still find myself blessed with thy favor and surrounded with thy powerful protection. And at length may I attain the happiness of heaven, where I shall for ever live in the smiles of thy favor, and eternally enjoy the light of thy blissful countenance. These petitions I offer up to the throne of thy grace, through the mediation and intercession of my great Redeemer, Jesus Christ the righteous, to whom be honor and glory for ever and ever....AMEN.

THE END.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